

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus connected to a color printer and a monochromatic printer, said image processing apparatus comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating whether each page in a print job consisting of a plurality of pages is a color page or a monochromatic page;

determination means for determining whether each page in the print job is to be output to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer, based on a discrimination made by said discrimination means;

output means for outputting print data of each page selectively to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer based on a determination made by said determination means; and

adding means for adding, to the print data output by said output means, an ejection command according to the color or monochromatic printer; and
control means for controlling each of the color and monochromatic printers such that an ejection position is changed when a succeeding page is not serial to the previously outputted page, based on the ejection command added by said adding means.

30. - 32. (canceled).

33. (currently amended) An image processing method for use in an image processing apparatus that is connected to a color printer and a monochromatic printer, said method comprising the steps of:

 a discriminating step for discriminating whether each page in a print job consisting of a plurality of page is color page or a monochromatic page;

 a determination step for determining whether each page in the print job is to be output to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer, based on a discrimination made in said discriminating step;

 an output step for outputting print data of each page selectively to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer based on a determination made in said determination step; and

 an adding step for adding, to the print data output in said output step, an ejection command according to the color or monochromatic printer; and

a control step for controlling each of the color and monochromatic printers
such that an ejection position is changed when a succeeding page is not serial to the previously outputted page, based on the ejection command added in said adding step.

34. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the ejection command added by said adding means is a command for shifting the ejection position from one position in a tray to a second position in that same tray.

35. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the ejection command added by said adding means is a command for ejection to another bin.

36. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the ejection command added in said adding step is a command for shifting the ejection position from one position in a tray to a second position in that same tray.

37. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the ejection command added in said adding step is a command for ejection to another bin.